

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Summary

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

Election/Restriction

The Applicants remind the Examiner that in the Office Action, dated March 16, 2005, the Examiner had indicated claims 8 and 9 are generic (see page 2). In the Applicants' response, the Applicants reminded the Examiner that claim 6, which is broader than claims 8 and 9, is also generic. Therefore, claims 6, 8, and 9 are generic.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, non-elected claims 1-5 are also allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 6-14 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicants Admitted Prior Art. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In item 9, the Examiner alleges that the Applicants' specification on page 1-4 and in FIG. 2 show:

“...after the chamber has been cleaned, and before any more substrates are loaded into the chamber supplying a gas into the chamber *without exciting the gas with RF power* to reduce the temperature in the chamber[.]” (Emphasis added.)

Then, the Examiner further alleges that:

“Applicant admitted prior art shows *cleaning employing RF power, oxygen and C₂F₆* (page 6).” (Emphasis added.)

The Applicants fail to understand the relationship between the two quoted sentences above. The Examiner has already established that the prior art discloses the *cleaning* step, i.e., step 47. (See page 4, item 8.) Is the Examiner alleging that a cleaning step (step 47) “**employing RF power, oxygen and C₂F₆**” is the same step of cooling the chamber **without RF power** and gas (claim 6, 6th step)? Is the Examiner also alleging that a single step (step 47 of Fig. 2) disclosed in the Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art (APA) as being equivalent to two (2) distinctively and recited steps (claim 6, 5th and 6th steps)?

The APA disclose a cleaning step employing RF power, oxygen and C₂F₆ (step 47), and then “after the RF cleaning step 47, the CVD apparatus prepares for the next PE-TEOS batch deposition[.] Paragraph [0050].


The Applicants submit, the APA does not disclose a cooling step without RF power after the cleaning step. For at least this reason, claims 6-14 are patentable over the APA.

Conclusion

No other issues remain, reconsideration and favorable action upon claims 1-14 present in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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